



भारतीय नौसेना

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NAVY GALLANTRY AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT KOCHI



Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of Naval Staff reviewing Ceremonial Parade at Kochi

Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of the Naval Staff, presented Gallantry Awards and other Honours at the Investiture Ceremony held at Naval Base Kochi today. The awards presented were five Nao Sena Medals for Gallantry, three Unit Citations, eight Nao Sena Medals for Devotion to Duty, and sixteen Vishisht Seva Medals for distinguished service. In addition, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak for saving life, Lieutenant VK Jain Memorial Gold Medal for Naval research projects and Captain Ravi Dhir Memorial Gold Medal for flight safety were also presented. The recipients were:-

Commander Naveen Thapa, a Seaking Pilot was awarded Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) for flying an extremely hazardous mission in gale force winds and low visibility on 30th August 2010, to rescue five crew of a submarine who were washed overboard in rough seas. Commander Thapa's flying skills and courage resulted in the rescue of five personnel.

Commander Gangupomu Murali in command of the submarine INS Shankush displayed tactical acumen and professional courage to achieve operational objectives set and was awarded Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry).

Lieutenant Commander Ajay Kanwar, an IL 38 aircraft pilot, who has earned Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), displayed true mettle when his aircraft suffered total power failure on 22nd May 2009, at 12000 feet and 270 nautical miles away from base. The Officer, with just 13 hours of flying experience, accomplished the daunting task of handling the emergency and landing the aircraft safely along with aircrew of 08 onboard. However, owing to the service exigencies, Lt Cdr Ajay Kanwar could not attend the Investiture ceremony.

Bijender Petty Officer, Air and Aircrew Diver was awarded Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) for the rescue of submarine personnel who were washed overboard.

Rajan Singh Sea I, a Clearance Diver and Marine Commando was awarded the Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) for the salvage of an Indian Air Force MI-17 helicopter which had crashed at Baglihar Dam in Jammu and Kashmir in October 2009.

INS Ranjit, MARCOS team (from INS Kalinga) and **INS Matanga** were presented Unit Citations.

Surgeon Commander GK Shreeram was awarded Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak for saving the life of a Police Jawan injured in anti-naxal operations in Odisha.

During his address to the Parade, the Navy Chief congratulated the award winners. Dwelling on the commitment of Indian Navy towards the anti Piracy Operations, the Admiral informed the gathering about deployment of at least one Indian Navy warship in the Gulf of Eden since October 2008 which has resulted in the Indian Navy escorting over 1600 ships (of 50 different countries) to safety. The Admiral also complimented the stellar role played by Southern Naval Command in anti Piracy operations.

The Ceremonial Parade (with 36 Platoons) was conducted by Vice Admiral KN Sushil, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Southern Naval Command. The President's Colours were paraded on the occasion with a 50 men Guard of Honour.



CNS presenting Nao Sena (Gallantry) medal to Cdr Gangupomu Murali



CNS takes salute on dais during review of Parade prior to the Investiture Ceremony at Kochi